

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 /062 W
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R 201016Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6909

INFO SECDEF

DIRNSA WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK TH

UNCLAS BANGKOK 14356

USIA PASS IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, MILI, TH

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON U.S. FACILITIES
IN THAILAND

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 19, PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOJ
COMMENTED ON THAI-U.S. MUTUAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.FOLLOWING
IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION.

2. BEGIN TEXT

REPORTER: A NEWS REPORT PUBLISHED IN A NEWSPAER SAID THAT
THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD WRITTEN THIS MEMORANDUM
AT THE REQUEST OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT.

SENI: YOU HAD BETTER GO AND ASK MR. PHICHAJ. I DON'T WANT
TO MEDDLE IN DUTIES THAT ARE HIS RESPONSIBILITY. HE GAVE THE
MEMORANDUM TO ME FOR MY INFORMATION AND THAT'S ALL.

REPORTER: DID THE GOVERNMENT REQUEST AMERICA TO SEND THAT
MEMORANDUM?

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SENI: NO COMMENT.

REPORTER: IS THIS PROBLEM ON THE RADAR ISSUE A VERY
KNOTTY ONE?

SENI: I DON'T SEE ANYTHING KNOTTY ABOUT IT. WHO SAID THAT
IT IS A KNOTTY PROBLEM?

REPORTER: BECAUSE AS SOON AS THE U.S. PRESENTED THE
MEMORANDUM, THERE BEGAN TO BE PUBLIC MEETINGS AND DEMANDS
WERE MADE.

SENI: YOU HAD BETTER GO AND PUT THAT QUESTION TO
MR. PHICHAJ BECAUSE HE IS THE OFFICIAL I HAVE ENTRUSTED WITH
HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS MATTER. SHOULD I MAKE ANY
STATEMENT OR COMMENT NOW, IT MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT HIS PLANS
FOR ALIGNMENT OF TALKS.

REPORTER: DID YOU ENTRUST MR. PHICHAJ WITH MAKING A
REQUEST FOR THE U.S. TO PRESENT ITS SUGGESTIONS IN THE FORM
OF A MEMORANDUM?

SENI: NO.

REPORTER: I NOTICED THAT NEWS REPORTS WERE PLAYED UP.
WHY IS THAT?

SENI: I DON'T KNOW. WHO PLAYED UP NEWS REPORTS?

REPORTER: PUBLIC MEETINGS WERE HELD, DEMANDS WERE MADE,
AND REPORTS OF THOSE MEETINGS WERE BROADCAST BY NEARLY EVERY
RADIO STATION.

SENI: THAT THERE WAS A GROUP SUPPORTING THE RETENTION
OF THOSE RADAR STATIONS? A QUESTION WAS PUT TO ME ON THE SAME
MATTER ONCE BEFORE, AND I SAID THAT I DON'T KNOW. THERE ARE
TWO GROUPS EXPRESSING TOTALLY DIFFERENT VIEWS.

REPORTER: REPORTS WERE BROADCAST BY OFFICIAL RADIO
STATIONS, INCLUDING THAT OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT.
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SENI: I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

REPORTER: DOES THAT REPRESENT GOVERNMENT POLICY?

SENI: AS I HAVE TOLD YOU ALREADY, OUR PRINCIPLE IN
GENERAL IS TO ACCEPT ONLY SOME EQUIPMENT WE ARE INTERESTED
IN AN WHICH THEY DO NOT NEED, BUT WHICH WILL BE OF USE TO

US. I SPOKE ONLY VERY GENERALLY. FURTHERMORE, MR. PHICHAI HAS ALREADY STATED THAT HE ADHERES FIRMLY TO THE SEVEN-POINT PROPOSAL MADE BY THE FORMER GOVERNMENT. AND THAT IS ALL. BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW THE MATTER HAS BECOME AS EXAGGERATED AS IT IS NOW. SOME PEOPLE MIGHT SUFFER FROM THE MIS-UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WILL BE NOTHING WHATSOEVER LEFT, THAT WE WILL NOT KEEP ANYTHING, SO PROTESTS AND OPPOSITION ARE STAGED. FROM ANOTHER ANGLE, SOME PEOPLE MIGHT BELIEVE THAT WE WILL ALLOW AMERICAN TROOPS TO CONTINUE REMAINING HERE, SO THEY TOO STAGE PROTESTS AND OPPOSITION. BOTH SIDES ARE INCORRECT AND SUFFER FROM MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

REPORTER: BUT WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT?

SENI: THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT IS AS HAS BEEN STATED ALREADY. WE WANT ONLY ANYTHING THAT WILL BE OF USE TO US. THAT IS ALL.

REPORTER: I FELT PUZZLED WHY OFFICIAL RADIO STATIONS SUPPORTED THE POLICY FOR THEM TO CONTINUE REMAINING HERE AND THAT MADE ME BELIEVE THAT IT WAS GOVERNMENT POLICY.

SENI: IT IS NOT AT ALL TRUE THAT TROOPS WILL CONTINUE REMAINING HERE.

REPORTER: WHAT ABOUT RAMASUN CAMP?

SENI: THE SAME PRINCIPLE IS ADHERED TO. WE WISH TO OBTAIN ANY EQUIPMENT THAT IS OF USE TO US.

REPORTER: INCLUDING RADAR EQUIPMENT?

SENI: INCLUDING RADAR EQUIPMENT ALSO.
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REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN THAT THIS GOVERNMENT STILL WANTS U.S. RADAR STATIONS TO CONTINUE REMAINING HERE?

SENI: BUT THE PROBLEM FACED IS REGARDING WHO HAS TO BE KEPT ON. NO TROOPS MUST REMAIN. THAT IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SEVEN POINTS EMPHASIZED BY MR. PHICHAI.

REPORTER: IT IS SAID THAT IT WILL TAKE AS LONG AS 18 MONTHS BEFORE WE WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER OPERATIONS ON OUR OWN.

SENI: I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW DETAILS. BUT ANYBODY WHO WILL REMAIN HERE MUST BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SEVEN POINTS WHICH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADHERES TO

FIRMLY. END TEXT
WHITEHOUSE

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